

Serial No.: 10/826,278  
Docket No.: 101-1025  
Amendment After Final dated February 10, 2009  
Reply to the Final Office Action of December 16, 2008

## **REMARKS**

### **Introduction**

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 19-21 and the Examiner's indication that claims 4-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13-16, 18, 22-24, and 26 have been amended. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are requested.

Entry of this Amendment After Final is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the claim amendments: (a) place this application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein), (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution as indicated in the Final Office Action), (c) present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal (should an appeal be necessary), and (d) are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Office Action.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

### **Rejection under 35 USC §103**

Claims 1-3, 14-18 and 22-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,081,891 to Schermerhorn (hereinafter, "Schermerhorn") in view of JP Publication No. 11-231829 to Kenji (hereinafter, "Kenji"). In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

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#### Claim 1

On page 16 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claim 4 is "objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." As presently recited, claim 1 includes the features previously recited in claim 4. Applicant has canceled claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Since Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest each of the features of Applicant's independent claim 1, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable and deemed to be allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

#### Claims 2 and 3

With regard to claims 2 and 3, it is respectfully submitted that for at least the reason that these claims depend from independent claim 1, which is patentably distinguishable from Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, for at least the reasons provided above, and therefore contain each of the features as recited in independent claim 1, dependent claims 2 and 3 are also patentably distinguishable from Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

#### Claim 14

On page 10 of the December 16, 2008 Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges and Applicant agrees that Schermerhorn "does not teach switching elements that establish current flow paths." The Examiner alleges that Kenji "teaches a first switchable current path z1 and a second current path z2 are provided between a power source line 51 and a terminal px to apply

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electric voltage to each cell in common with one another (see the abstract).”

However, on page 14 of the May 17, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges and Applicant agrees that Schermerhorn “does not teach a single sided driver” including

a single-sided driver circuit comprising an isolation and reset circuit combination which isolates an energy recovery path and establishes a current flow path to generate reset voltage waveforms that are supplied to both X and Y axes electrodes to eliminate wall charges in the display panel during a reset period; a scan pulse generation circuit which establishes a current flow path to generate address discharging voltage waveforms to be supplied to the X and Y axes electrodes to generate wall charges in the display panel during an address period; a sustain driver circuit which establishes charging/discharging paths to charge/discharge the display panel according to the predetermined switching sequences to drive the display panel during a sustain discharge period, and establishes a current flow path to generate the reset voltage waveform and the address discharging voltage waveforms during the reset period and the address period, respectively, in combination with the isolation and reset circuit and the scan pulse generation circuit.

Applicant’s independent claim 14 presently recites, among other things, “selecting circuit elements for an isolation and reset circuit combination,” “selecting circuit elements for a scan pulse generation circuit,” and “selecting circuit elements for a sustain driver circuit” which are identified by the Examiner in the above-quoted passage that Schermerhorn “does not teach.” In at least the Office Action of December 16, 2008, the Examiner does not describe that Kenji, or any other prior art reference of record, teaches or suggests at least these features. Applicant respectfully submits that Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest each of the features recited in independent claim 14.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

#### Claims 15-18

With regard to claims 15-18, it is respectfully submitted that for at least the reason that these claims depend from independent claim 14, which is patentably distinguishable from Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, for at least the reasons provided above, and therefore contain each of the features as recited in

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independent claim 14, dependent claims 15-18 are also patentably distinguishable from Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

#### Claims 22 and 23

With regard to independent claim 22, on page 14 of the May 17, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges and Applicant agrees that Schermerhorn fails to teach or suggest, among other things, establishing "charging/discharging paths to charge/discharge the display panel according to the predetermined switching sequences to drive the display panel during a sustain discharge period," and establishing a "current flow path to generate the reset voltage waveform and the address discharging voltage waveforms during the reset period and the address period."

Applicant's claim 22 presently recites, among other things, "switching current between current flow paths to generate predetermined driving voltage waveforms alternating in polarity with respect to a reference voltage across X and Y axes electrodes according to predetermined switching sequences to drive the display panel during a sustain discharge period" and "establishing predetermined current flow paths to generate a reset voltage waveform and an address discharge voltage waveform during a reset period and an address period." In at least the Office Action of December 16, 2008, the Examiner does not describe that Kenji, or any other prior art reference of record, teaches or suggests at least these features. Applicant submits that claim 22 is allowable, as the Examiner has acknowledged that Schermerhorn fails to teach or suggest features presently recited in claim 22.

Since Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest each of the features recited in claim 22, claim 22 is patentably distinguishable and deemed to be allowable.

With regard to claim 23, it is respectfully submitted that for at least the reason that this claim depends from independent claim 22, which is patentably distinguishable from

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Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, for at least the reasons provided above, and therefore contains each of the features as recited in independent claim 22, dependent claim 23 is also patentably distinguishable from Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

#### Claims 24 and 25

With regard to independent claim 24, on page 14 of the May 17, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges and Applicant agrees that Schermerhorn fails to teach or suggest an "isolation and reset circuit combination which isolates an energy recovery path and establishes a current flow path to generate reset voltage waveforms that are supplied to both ... electrodes ... during a reset period," a "scan pulse generation circuit which establishes a current flow path to generate address discharging voltage waveforms" to be "supplied" to the "electrodes" during an "address period," a "sustain driver circuit" to provide a "current flow path" to "generate" a "reset voltage waveform."

Applicant's claim 24 presently recites, among other things, "an isolation and reset circuit combination to establish a current flow path to generate reset ramp voltage waveforms for a first electrode and a second electrode during a reset period," a "scan pulse generation circuit connected with the isolation and reset circuit combination and the first and second electrodes to establish a current flow path to generate voltage waveforms during an address period," and first and second "sustain driver circuits" to provide "current" to "electrode[s]" of the "display panel." In at least the Office Action of December 16, 2008, the Examiner does not describe that Kenji, or any other prior art reference of record, teaches or suggests at least these features. Applicant submits that claim 24 is allowable, as the Examiner has acknowledged that Schermerhorn fails to teach or suggest features presently recited in claim 24.

Since Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest each of the features recited in claim 24, claim 24 is patentably

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distinguishable and deemed to be allowable.

With regard to claim 25, it is respectfully submitted that for at least the reason that this claim depends from independent claim 1, which is patentably distinguishable from Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, for at least the reasons provided above, and therefore contains each of the features as recited in independent claim 1, dependent claim 23 is also patentably distinguishable from Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

#### Claim 26

On page 14 of the May 17, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges and Applicant agrees that Schermerhorn fails to teach or suggest an "isolation and reset circuit combination which isolates an energy recovery path and establishes a current flow path to generate reset voltage waveforms that are supplied to both ... electrodes ... during a reset period," a "scan pulse generation circuit which establishes a current flow path to generate address discharging voltage waveforms" to be "supplied" to the "electrodes" during an "address period," a "sustain driver circuit" to provide a "current flow path" to "generate" a "reset voltage waveform."

Applicant's claim 26 presently recites, among other things, an "isolation and reset circuit combination to establish a current flow path to generate reset ramp voltage waveforms for the first axis electrode and the second axis electrode during a reset period," and a "scan pulse generation circuit connected with the isolation and reset circuit combination and the first and second axis electrodes to establish a current flow path to generate voltage waveforms during an address period." In at least the Office Action of December 16, 2008, the Examiner does not describe that Kenji, or any other prior art reference of record, teaches or suggests at least these features. Applicant submits that claim 26 is allowable, as the Examiner has acknowledged that Schermerhorn fails to teach or suggest features presently recited in claim 26.

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Since Schermerhorn and Kenji, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest each of the features recited in claim 26, claim 26 is patentably distinguishable and deemed to be allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

#### **Examiner's Response to Arguments**

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "Applicant's arguments filed on 08/27/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive." Applicant's Remarks above address the Examiner's Response to Arguments recited on pages 2-6 of the Office Action, as well as the rejections recited on pages 6-16 of the Office Action.

In view of the above Remarks, reconsideration of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

On page 16 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "Claims 4-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

With regard to claim 4 and as discussed above, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the features recited in claim 4, and has canceled claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant respectfully requests that for at least the reasons that claims 5-13 depend from allowable independent claim 1, and therefore contain each of the features as recited in claim 1, claims 5-13 are also patentable over the prior art of record.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

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**Conclusion**

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

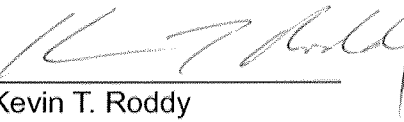
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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